

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1694 - SB 1369**

March 23, 2011

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Transfers, from the General Assembly to a newly created Congressional Redistricting Commission, the responsibility of establishing congressional districts. Establishes appointment procedures for a five-member commission in July 2011 and every January every 10 years thereafter. Requires the General Assembly to appropriate funds to enable the Commission to carry out its duties. Authorizes the members to receive reimbursement for expenses and mileage and to reimburse witnesses for expenses incurred in appearing before the Commission. Authorizes the Commission to employ experts, consultants, and support staff, including attorneys, to carry out its duties. Requires the Commissioner of Finance and Administration to seek all available federal funding for the establishment and operation of the Commission, implementation of the redistricting plan, and other necessary expenses, including the expenses of any special sessions of the General Assembly. Requires the Commission to hold open meetings, maintain a website, and prepare and post minutes from each meeting on the website. Requires the Commission to publish a notice in at least two newspapers of general circulation in each Grand Division of the state when the Commission submits a redistricting plan to the General Assembly. Requires the Commission to publish a detailed version of the redistricting plan on the website. Requires the Commission to terminate on the date after the date of the first regularly scheduled general election for federal office that occurs in the year ending in two. Directs that any remaining funds at the disposal of the Commission shall revert to the State General Fund. Attaches the Commission administratively to the Comptroller of the Treasury for all administrative matters relating to receipts, disbursements, expense accounts, budget, audit, and other related items. Requires the Comptroller to administer the website until the appointment of a new commission following the next federal census.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – \$212,000/One-Time/FY11-12 and  
Every 10 Years Thereafter  
\$95,000/Recurring  
\$400/Each One-Day Meeting**

**Assumptions:**

- The Commission will hire two attorneys and two consultants at a cost of \$200,000 (\$50,000 x 4) every 10 years to research, draft, and prepare Congressional Redistricting Plans. These employees will not have career status but are subject to personnel policies applicable to state employees such as leave, compensation, classification, and travel reimbursement.

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- The Comptroller of the Treasury will require one additional position to provide administrative duties for the Commission and to maintain the website. The Comptroller estimates a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$95,000 for salary and benefits for this position.
- A one-time cost of \$12,000 (\$2,000 x 6 newspapers) to print notice of the proposed redistricting plan in statutorily designated newspapers as required by this legislation.
- Three of the five members will be required to travel approximately 276 miles to attend meetings and will be reimbursed for mileage. Travel expenses for three members totaling \$381 per meeting (276 miles x \$0.46 per mile x 3 members).
- The Office of Legal Services (OLS) would continue to be responsible for assisting in researching, preparing, and drafting Senate and House of Representatives Redistricting Plans, and in drafting Congressional Redistricting Plans. OLS would not be responsible for researching and preparing Congressional Redistricting Plans as a result of this bill. The proposed bill would not significantly reduce overall OLS budgetary requirements for performing its redistricting responsibilities.
- According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, the additional duties assigned to the Supreme Court can be fulfilled utilizing existing judicial resources.
- Any additional duties for the Office of the Attorney General and Reporter, the Secretary of State, and the Commissioner of Finance and Administration can be accommodated within existing resources.

## **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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